

BASU GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY - PENNSYLVANIA

The Pennsylvania Office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is seeking a graduate student in agronomy, agriculture, soil science, environmental resource management, agricultural engineering, or civil engineering to participate in a graduate scholarship program for students enrolled in a Master's or Ph.D. and/or a combined graduate degree program. Generally, a maximum of two (2) years of funding will be provided for a master's degree and four (4) years of funding will be provided for a Ph.D. degree. Participants who meet all of the requirements of the program may be non-competitively converted to term, career, or career-conditional appointments upon graduation.

Recipients of the scholarships will enter into an agreement with NRCS and receive full-tuition scholarships. Prior to graduation, recipients will intern at NRCS for a minimum of 640 hours. The internships are paid entry-level professional positions and are in addition to the scholarship funds.

After graduation, recipients are required to work for NRCS one year for every year of financial assistance received from NRCS. Placement is expected to be in Washington State, but depending on budget/staffing may be in other states where opportunities exist at the time of graduation.

AWARDS INCLUDE

- Full-tuition scholarships: tuition, mandatory university fees and books. Scholarship checks will be mailed directly to the universities.
- Paid internship (entry level professional position).
- Employee benefits.
- Mentoring, career development, and leadership training.
- Use of a personal computer while at school.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Each applicant must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

- U.S. citizenship.
- Possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, or be a graduating senior, with at least a cumulative 3.0 grade point average based on a 4.0 scale.

- Be accepted into or enrolled in an accredited institution as a graduate student, seeking a master's or Ph.D. degree.
- Have a strong interest in a career in public service with the NRCS.
- May not be a current USDA employee.

HOW TO APPLY

To be considered for the program, the following materials **MUST** be submitted:

- Resume.
- One (only) Letter of Recommendation on an accredited college/university letterhead from applicant's academic counselor, advisor, faculty member, or employer addressed to the State Conservationist specifically. Letter of recommendation should be from someone who knows the applicant well and can speak to his/her abilities. The letter should discuss an applicant's 1) Personal strengths; 2) Leadership qualities; 3) Academic and extracurricular achievements; and 4) Future academic and career aspirations.
- A copy of all official accredited college/university transcript(s) indicating undergraduate and graduate (if any) academic work. Transcripts **MUST** include a cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- Letter of acceptance or proof of enrollment in an accredited institution as a graduate student pursuing an appropriate degree.

Selections will be carried out by the Washington State Office of the NRCS based on:

- Application materials
- Interviews

Transcripts and application materials may be submitted via mail or FAX only; email applications will not be accepted. Please submit application documents by October, 2008 to insure consideration. They should be sent to:

Natural Resources Conservation Service
ATTN: Lisa Bonafede, HR Specialist
One Credit Union Place, Suite 340
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993
FAX: (717) 237-2238
Phone: (717) 237-2229

Students of Asian American and Pacific Islander ancestry are encouraged to apply.